



## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, D.C. 20594

Office of Marine Safety

### Interview Summary

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**Date:** February 11, 2007

**Location:** On board M/V Kition; Baton Rouge, LA

**Person Interviewed:** Ernesto Dapat, Second Officer

**Interview Conducted By:** W.R. Woody

Mr. Dapat was interviewed concerning the collision of the M/V Kition with the bridge pier of the I-10 highway bridge at Baton Rouge, Louisiana, which occurred on February 10, 2007. (DCA07FM013) The text that follows is not a verbatim record of the conversation.

It has been developed from my handwritten notes of the conversation and is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and recollection.

Mr. Dapat was provided a copy of the interview summary for review.

### INTERVIEW

Mr. Dapat stated that he was on the bow in charge of three crewmembers, including the bosun, taking in the forward mooring lines. He was responding to orders from the master received by radio. He recalled that his gang of men had taken a line from the forward tug and secured it to a fitting on deck, and after that they paid no further attention to the tug. He mentioned that the line handlers on the dock were using a forklift to let go the lines. He stated that his men experience no problems taking in the lines. He was on the port side at this time. He stated that the order of taking in the lines was spring lines, breast lines and then the headlines. He stated that when all lines were in the ship moved away from the pier out to about 10 meters and then started turning to the right. He stated that the current was acting on the bow pushing the bow to the right. He was not aware of what maneuvers the tugs were performing or their influence on the ship's movements.

As the bow swung toward the bridge, he recognized that the bow would come close to the bridge pier and he requested full astern. The bow cleared the buoy upriver from the bridge pier and at this time he saw that the bow would strike the bridge. And he urged the master to back the ship.

**Personal Information:** Mr. Dapat, age 52, was from Cavite, Republic of the Philippines. He had been going to sea for 20 years, including ten years as second mate. He holds a master's license issued by the Republic of the Philippines for any class of ship. He had stood the 12 to 6 watch (2400 to 0600) and had stayed up for getting underway. He said he felt fine and was not taking any medications and did not wear glasses.

**END OF INTERVIEW**

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W. R. Woody  
Marine Accident Investigator